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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Memorandum of Conversation

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DATE: March 10, 1949

SUBJECT: Soviet Wheat Conference Delegate.

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. K. T. Jutila, Minister of Finland
Mr. Caspar D. Green, DOE

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In conversation with me after dinner last night Minister Jutila dwelt at length on the subject of the recent shifts of high Soviet officials which he believes reflect a real policy crisis in the Soviet Union or at least an acute uncertainty as to major lines of policy. He believes that Mikoyan, the youngest of the top officials and in his opinion the most intelligent, is the man to be watched. (He believes that in the USSR the Russians present the fanatical line and the Caucasians--Georgians--are the shrewd realists.) He thinks that to some extent lesser figures are being thrust forward to be front men during a period of uncertainty and that when major decisions are made the major figures will re-emerge, untouched by the storm and stress of change.

Leading off from this, he said that he thought the presence here in Washington of S. B. Borisev, the Soviet Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade, who is here as the head of the Soviet delegation to the Wheat Conference, gives us a fine opportunity to influence a high Russian official and show him what our situation really is. He said that official attentions to Borisev might have good effect on the Wheat Conference itself and, possibly, on longer term problems of United States-Soviet relations. He thought it would be most desirable for the Secretary of Commerce, as Mr. Borisev's opposite member, to offer Mr. Borisev some official entertainment which would give him a chance to make contacts

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with American officials and business men and give Americans a chance to express their viewpoint to Borisev. We could lose nothing by it and might gain much, he thought. He said as a matter of fact that Mr. Maslov, the Soviet Embassy Secretary, had suggested that Borisev was much interested in having an opportunity to make this kind of contact. (Although Minister Jutila's statement of the desirability and usefulness of this kind of treatment of Borisev was, I believe, honest and frank, it appeared clearly that the suggestion originated with the Soviet Embassy and was intended for conveyance to the Department.)

Caspar D. Green

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